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INFO RUEHNE/AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI 3492
RUEHLM/AMEMBASSY COLOMBO 7674
RUEHKA/AMEMBASSY DHAKA 3025
RUEHIL/AMEMBASSY ISLAMABAD 5713

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SUBJ: MEDIA REACTION: WATERING CLIMATE DOWN

¶1. Navin Singh Khadka, a BBC journalist based in London in an opinion piece on Friday, January 29, 2010 concludes that politics has begun to spell disaster for the fight against climate change. "And the political actors are none other than the same gang of three - the U.S. and the major BASIC players China and India - that brought forth the controversial Copenhagen Accord," he says, adding "As if the anarchy the accord has cast on the global climate regime was not enough."

¶2. Excerpts: "It was something quite expected. But not so soon and so fast. Hot on the heels of the collapsed Copenhagen Summit, the global fight against climate change has suffered one after another severe blow. How things change within a month or so. It was only five weeks ago when more than 120 heads of state or government had met to see what they could do to stabilize the changing climate. No doubt there were serious doubts then that they would strike a deal. But the fact that they came together at least showed that climate was a global challenge that the world did reckon with. By the time the world leaders departed from the Danish capital, however, the year ahead did not at all look good for climate negotiations. Barely a month since, and it is already coming so true. Just when renewed controversies began to dog the issue of Himalayan glacial retreat earlier this month, the Democrats lost a Massachusetts Senate seat in the U.S. Just one year in office, it was a huge setback for President Barack Obama who had personally campaigned in the election."

¶3. "... If this is what you see in the U.S. - the key designer of the Copenhagen Accord - its allies that signed the agreement offer no different picture. Major players in the BASIC bloc - Brazil, South Africa, India and China that together with the U.S. signed the Copenhagen Accord - seem to be cashing in on the IPCC's slip on the issue of Himalayan glacial retreat. ... An even more interesting, if not intriguing, move was made by China. During a recent post-Copenhagen meeting in New Delhi earlier this week, lead Chinese climate negotiator Xie Zhenhua said he was keeping an "open attitude" as to whether global warming was manmade or due to nature cycles. ... The senior Chinese official's comments contradict his country's official position on climate change so far. Chinese researchers themselves have been saying that the glaciers in Tibet have been receding alarmingly due to global warming. This is not to say that Beijing

or New Delhi should toe just one line on climate - more so on the Himalaya as they are least studied and have many uncertainties with regard to climatic changes."

14. "Following the disputes surrounding the rate of glacial retreat shows that the picture can be even more complicated than that of glaciers. But more than the science, it is politics that has begun to spell disaster for the fight against climate change. And the political actors are none other than the same gang of three - the U.S. and the major BASIC players China and India - that brought forth the controversial Copenhagen Accord. As if the anarchy the accord has cast on the global climate regime was not enough."

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